

Application No. 10/541602
Responsive to the final office action dated June 8, 2009

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 8, 22-26, and 28 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants respectfully request that withdrawn claims 15-17 that include all limitations of allowable claim 1 and have been withdrawn as a result of the restriction requirement in the Office Action mailed February 28, 2008 be rejoined with allowable claims 1-7, 10-14, and 27 in the present application.

Claims 8 and 22-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver (U.S. Patent No. 3,694,360) in view of Sullivan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,753,371).

Claims 24-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver (U.S. Patent No. 3,694,360) in view of Sullivan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,753,371), as applied above, and further in view of Fujita et al. (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 050-017710).

Claims 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver (U.S. Patent No. 3,694,360) in view of Sullivan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,753,371), as applied above, and further in view of Machishita et al. (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-219534).

Claims 24 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver (U.S. Patent No. 3,694,360) in view of Sullivan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,753,371) as applied above, and further in view of Marshall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,331,699).

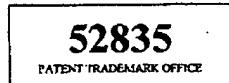
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Claim 28 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver (U.S. Patent No. 3,694,360) in view of Sullivan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,753,371) as applied above, and further in view of Machishita et al. (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-219534).

Claims 8, 22-26, and 28 have been canceled as discussed above. Accordingly, the rejections listed above are moot and should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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By: A handwritten signature of Douglas P. Mueller over a horizontal line.
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DPM/my/mz